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06/04/2004 11:31 PM

cc:
Subject: Comments to K Basin Change Order

Your Fact Sheet has this statement:

"The scheduled for the retrieval is slightly delayed from its original date; however,"

I find this a serious understatement to fool the public. The K Basin was originally scheduled to be completed in the year 1998. It missed that schedule and over spent the budget and a new schedule and budget were negotiated in 1998. A new schedule was again negotiated in December of 2002. I don't remember the total number of times the clean up schedule for K Basins was renegotiated, but, we are doing it again. As a public citizen, I am tired of paying the big salaries of unskilled construction managers. I am tired of wimpy oversight managers who are afraid of getting tough with the contractors. There is too much job preservation occurring by the contractors. Workers are allowed to dilly dally, knowing that as long as there is a public safety hazard, they will be paid. The government employees in charge of these clean up projects are looking the other way and letting this fraud of the U. S. Taxpayers occur. The government employees also know that they have job security by letting clean up work linger. This is a conflict of interest.

No change orders to increase the time of completing the work should be approved. Contractors missing schedules should be replaced. Inexperienced workers should be laid off. Workers not giving their best should be warned. Department of Energy managers of the K Basin project should be fired.

I am not against the need for the clean up work. I am against the total lack of discipline and resolve shown at Hanford. Frankly, this country has higher priorities for spending the public money.

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